

Our Washington Letter.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Fourth Assistant Postmaster-General Bristow has been summoned to Oyster Bay and has had a conference with the President. When Mr. Bristow returned to Washington he declined to discuss his visit with the newspaper men, and the result was numerous stories as to its object, most of them purely fallacious. Your correspondent is in a position to say that the President did not indicate a desire to have former First Assistant Perry Heath, or any other official, shielded from the legal consequences of his own acts. He told Mr. Bristow to pursue the investigation to the end without fear or favor. The President is being criticised for his retention of Payne in his Cabinet, but aside from that the partisan press finds no ground for complaint. Postmaster-General Payne has been away from Washington for a number of weeks, cruising along the New England coast in a revenue cutter, which is the occasion of severe criticism of the Postmaster-General, in some quarters.

SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS.

The prediction made in these letters last March, that the President would call Congress in special session on November 9, to complete the ratification of the Cuban treaty has received positive confirmation in the shape of an authorized statement made by Senator Lodge at Oyster Bay after a long discussion with the President. Contrary to reports circulated in some quarters, this special session is to be called primarily for the passage of an enabling act by which the Cuban treaty will be put in force. That, if the President's wishes are respected, must be disposed of before the consideration of any other important business, but Senator Lodge also adds that the President hopes there will be time for the consideration of needed financial legislation.

THE MENACE OF UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRATION.

There are two subjects which the President is discussing very earnestly with callers at Oyster Bay this summer, so earnestly that it is safe to predict that both will receive special notice in his annual message to Congress. One is the revision of the public land laws; the other is the subject of immigration. Nearly a million aliens came to the United States last year and generally speaking they were of the least desirable classes. Attention has also been called to the fact that this class of immigrants does not go west, where it is desirable to settle up the country and where employment at good wages is easy to secure, but remains in the big cities crowding the slums and breeding anarchy, discontent and disease. New York alone assimilated 30 per cent of last year's immigration, and but 13 per cent went west of the Mississippi. An earnest attempt was made at the last session of Congress, by Senator Lodge and other leaders, to secure an educa-

tional test for immigrants coming to this country with a view to eliminating the more ignorant, but Senators Elkins, Gallinger and others interested in a large supply of cheap labor, defeated the proposed restriction.

A. B. M.

Washington, D. C., August 1, 1903.

Apropos of "How to Help Your Neighborhood."

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

I was much interested in your editorial in this week's paper, "How to help your neighborhood." It is the good fortune of our neighborhood to enjoy most of the advantages which you mention. We have rural delivery, a good school building, a library for the same, and good roads, but we have not the telephone and farmers' club. The two last-mentioned advantages, I would like to see discussed in your valuable paper.

The only telephone in our section is the Bell, and it is too expensive for the ordinary farmer. We once had a strong Sub Alliance, but I doubt if it could be reorganized under the name. The rural delivery is highly appreciated by our neighborhood.

Crops are about three weeks late, and are suffering now for rain. Millers report wheat poor in quantity and quality.

Very respectfully,

JOHN McDOWELL.

Mecklenburg Co., N. C.

George Washington was an active member of the first society for promoting agriculture organized in the United States, in 1785 at Philadelphia. In his message to Congress ten years later he said, in pleading for a National Board of Agriculture:

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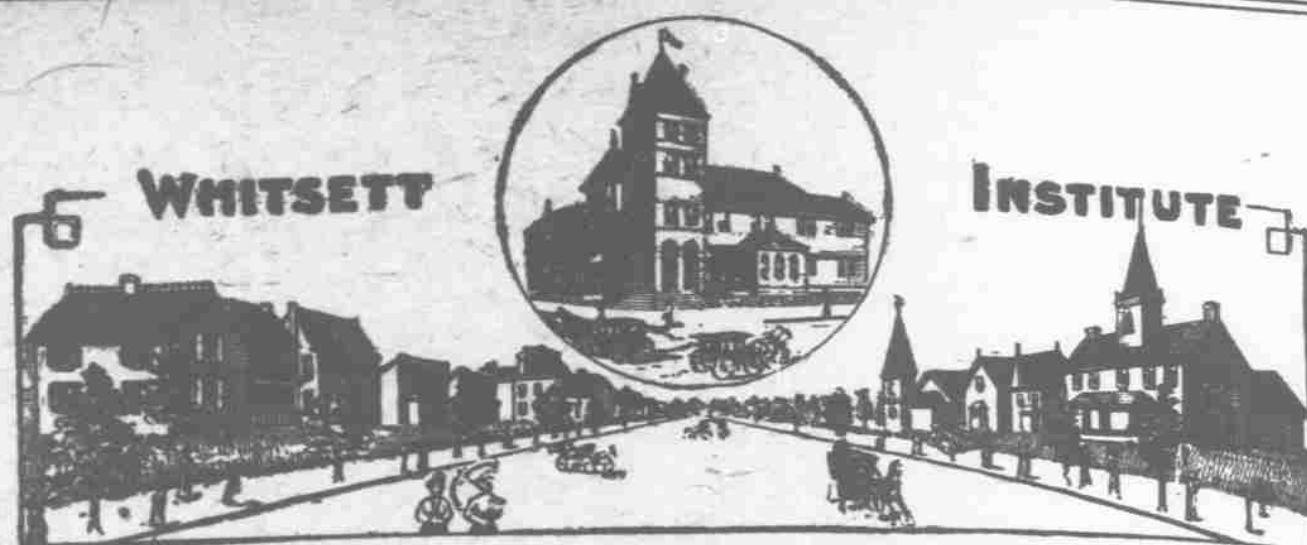
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